Until the engine is tested proved and certified it is proposed to prove the LCA design with a proven interim engine which is improved.

(b) The General Electric F-404 engine from United States has been selected as the interim power plant based on techno-economic consideration of the available options.

Indigenous design capabilities for production of LCA

2305 SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop indigenous design capabilities for the production of light Combat Aircraft (LCA) which Government propose to manufactured, so as to meet the future air defence requirements of the country-rather than base it on a licenced programme; and

(b) if so, what are the broad details of the measure being taken to develop indigenous capabilities in various sophisticated fields of the aircraft design and production to meet the requirements of the new generation of aircraft, like the LCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are being made to undate indigenous capabilities in design and manufacture of composite materials, fly-by-wire flight control system, advance avionic systems etc Indigenous programmes are under progress for development of GTX Gas Turbine Engine, Multi-mode radar and special alloys for aero-frame and aero-engine applications.

Development of electronics avionics, etc.

2306 SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronics avionies lasers and fly-by-wire aircraft play a major role in modern warfare; and

(b) if so, what are the broad details of progress being made by India in the said fields so as to ensure that our defence apparatus is equipped with the latest equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scientific & technological activities of DRDO cover a variety of disciplines. These efforts are continuously directed towards progressive self relience. State-of-art equipment/weapon systems in the areas of radars, communication network, laser systems and other sophisticated electronic systems have been developed and are now under production. A project on Light Combat Aircraft has been taken which would incorporate advanced system like fly-by-wire fire control systems, full-authority digital electronic control system, advanced materials and technological progress.

Number of dacoities, robberies in each zone

2307. SHRI T. R BALU

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFIRAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dacoities, train robberies, murders, etc. which took place in each zone during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there had been an increase in these incidents and if so, the reasons therefore,